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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/245,720	02/08/1999	BUNICHI SHOJI	1892/47565.	5294

7590 05/17/2004

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, CHI Q

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3635

DATE MAILED: 05/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/245,720

Applicant(s)

SHOJI, BUNICHI

Examiner

Chi Q Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 October 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,5 and 8-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-2, and 5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3 and 8-10 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This Office action is in response to the applicant's amendment after final filed on 2/13/04.

Drawings

The correction for drawings on pages 2 and 3 on 2/13/04 was received and acknowledged. These drawings are being held as informal drawings and accepted for examination purpose. The formal drawings are required when the application is being allowed.

Claim Objections

Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: the applicant is advised to delete the phrase "which has a width determined by the diameter of the pipe member" in lines 12-13, after "flat section".

Claim 2 is objected to because of the following informalities: the applicant is advised to delete the phrase "which has a width determined by the diameter of said pipe member" in lines 13-14, after "flat section".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claims 1, 2, 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dziewolski (US 4,187,034).

Dziewolski teaches structural member comprising an upper chord member 1, a lower chord member 2, a diagonal chord member 9, 10, connected to a parent plate 5, and a connection part 1a, 2a, 9a, 10a, formed on an end of each of the chord members,

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respectively, wherein the upper chord member 1, lower chord member 2, diagonal chord member 9, 10 comprise a pipe member, the connection part 1a, 2a, 9a, 10a comprises a tubular section and a flat section formed integral and continuously with the tubular section extending from and integral with each the pipe member wherein the connection part 1a, 2a, 9a, 10a, connected to the parent plate 5 via a bolt 4, 11 passing through a bolt opening formed in the flat section with has a width determined by the diameter of the pipe member 1, 2, 9, 10, and an edge portion of the tubular section defining a curved boundary with the flat section and constituting a transitional portion (see fig. 1).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3, 8, 9, 10 were previously objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 2/13/04 that Dziewoski '034 does not teach a curved transitional slack portion nor a semi-spherical or semi-circular shaped tubular section, which directly continues to the complete round section without a transitional section have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The examiner does not agree with the applicant's argument because (see attached figs. 1 and 3) and set forth in the office action, Dziewoski teaches a truss structure having a flat section 1b, a tubular section 1a, and between is a transitional slack portion that defined as a curved or semi-circular shape at A.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).


A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Chi Q. Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 605-1224, Mon-Thu (7:00-5:30), Fridays off or examiner's supervisor, Carl Friedman can be reached at (703) 308-0839. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-

1113.

CQN
5/13/04


Carl D. Friedman
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3600